

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 2320, LIHEAP Funding.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1807–S1858

Measures Introduced: Nine bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2375–2383. **Pages S1833–34**

Measures Passed:

LIHEAP Funding: Senate passed S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1808–15, S1817–28**

Adopted:

By 68 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. 34), Frist (for Snowe) Amendment No. 2913 (to Amendment No. 2899), to improve the distribution of funds to States under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. **Pages S1815, S1817–26**

Kyl/Ensign Amendment No. 2899, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for allotments to States for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006. **Page S1826**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 75 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. 33), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill. **Page S1815**

Chair sustained a point of order that Inhofe Amendment No. 2898, to reduce energy prices, was not germane, and the amendment thus fell. **Page S1826**

Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 2349, to provide greater transparency in the legislative process, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S1850–52**

Pending:

Reid Amendment No. 2932, to provide additional transparency in the legislative process. **Pages S1850–52**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, March 8, 2006. **Page S1850**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Michael E. Ranneberger, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya.

Robert F. Godec, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia.

Philip D. Moeller, of Washington, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2010.

Jon Wellingshoff, of Nevada, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2008.

Richard Capka, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.

Jerry Gayle Bridges, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps. **Pages S1852–58**

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

James Hardy Payne, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, which was sent to the Senate on September 29, 2005. **Page S1858**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1832–33**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1834–35**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1835–44**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1831–32**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1844–49**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Pages S1849–50

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S1850

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today.
(Total—34) Pages S1815, S1826

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:45 a.m., and adjourned at 7:13 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 8, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1850.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Committee on Appropriations: Committee held a hearing to examine the proposed supplemental funding request for additional resources to assist the Gulf Coast region in its recovery from hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in 2005, after receiving testimony from Alabama Governor Bob Riley, Montgomery; Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco, Baton Rouge; Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, Jackson; and Texas Governor Rick Perry, Austin.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Defense, after receiving testimony from Tina W. Jonas, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); and Vice Admiral

Evan M. Chanik, USN, Director, Force Structure, Resources and Assessments (J8).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee continued open and closed hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, receiving testimony from Admiral William J. Fallon, USN, Commander, United States Pacific Command; General Burwell B. Bell, III, USA, Commander, United Nations Command and Republic of Korea-United States Combined Forces Command, Commander, United States Forces Korea; and General James L. Jones, USMC, Commander, United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

Hearing recessed subject to the call.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded open and closed hearings to examine the nuclear weapons and defense environmental cleanup activities of the Department of Energy in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years nuclear security program, after receiving testimony from Linton F. Brooks, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, and James A. Rispoli, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, both of the Department of Energy.

CREDIT RATING AGENCIES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the current oversight and operation of credit rating agencies, after receiving testimony from Paul Schott Stevens, Investment Company Institute, Damon A. Silvers, AFL-CIO, and Alex J. Pollock, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; Colleen S. Cunningham, Financial Executives International, Florham Park, New Jersey; Glenn L. Reynolds, CreditSights, Inc., and Vickie A. Tillman, Standard and Poor's Credit Market Services, both of New York, New York; Frank Partnoy, University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, California; and Jeffrey J. Diermeier, CFA Institute, Charlottesville, Virginia.

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine rural telecommunications, including telephony, data transmission, video transmission and mobility, after receiving testimony from Thomas Dorr, Under Secretary, and James M. Andrew, Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, both of the Department of Agriculture; Mark Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; Mark K. Johnson, Regulatory Commission of Alaska, Anchorage; Ray Baum, Commissioner, Public Utility Commissioner of Oregon, Salem; William Squires, Blackfoot Telecommunications Group, Missoula, Montana; Larry Sarjeant, Qwest Communications, and Joe Garcia, National Congress of American Indians, both of Washington, D.C.; and Craig Mundie, Microsoft, Redmond, Washington.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the goal of U.S. energy independence, focusing on how the United States can facilitate the advancement of technologies to create new sources of energy, how to make more